

## A major relief



**PULLING TOGETHER** — A team from Yalobusha Association pulls down a tree which was threatening a house near Shuqualak. Several volunteers from around Mississippi were on hand to aid in disaster relief efforts following the April 11 tornado. (Photo by Tony Martin)

## Miss. Baptist volunteers lend a hand in aftermath of tornado

By Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

In the aftermath of the tornado that struck parts of Noxubee County April 11, volunteers from around the state responded to the tragedy.

Responses were coordinated through the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Volunteers were soon on site to aid in chainsaw work, installing tarps on homes with damage, and feeding volunteer responders.

"We staged out of Calvary Church in Macon," said Jim Didlake, director of the Men's Ministry Department. "We are feeding volunteers out of the church and will be there two or three days." The team utilized the kitchen facilities of the church.

### On the web

For more information on Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief and how you can get involved, visit [mbcb.org/mission\\_strategy/men/dr/](http://mbcb.org/mission_strategy/men/dr/)



**TIMBER!** — Jason Moore, Rocky Point Church, Carthage, scrambles out of the way as a tree he cut falls to the ground. Moore and others were part of chainsaw teams aiding in recovery in the aftermath of the tornado that struck Noxubee County April 11. (Photo by Tony Martin)

## McMillin takes helm of Blue Mountain College

**BLUE MOUNTAIN, Ms. (Special)** — Barbara Childers McMillin will be inaugurated as the eighth president of Blue Mountain College (BMC) in a formal installation ceremony at 10 a.m. on April 26, in Berry Auditorium on the Blue Mountain campus.

The inauguration will be the high point of a week-long schedule of activities on the BMC campus that are open to the public. "This is a great day for Blue Mountain College and we want to share it with as many friends and supporters as possible," said Pam Bowman, chair of the BMC inauguration committee.

"There will be events going on all week, starting on Monday morning and concluding with the inauguration and a reception on Friday. We want as many people as possible to meet Dr. McMillin, visit the BMC campus, and spend some time with us. It will be an enjoyable week for everyone; we'll make sure of that."

Blue Mountain College is one of three institutions of higher learning affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The others are Mississippi College in Clinton and William Carey University in Hattiesburg.

McMillin, who grew up 15 miles north of Blue Mountain in Falkner, became president of the 140-year-old college on August 1. She succeeded Bettye Rogers Coward, who retired after serving 11 years.

Rhonda H. Kelly, author and adjunct professor of women's ministry at the New Orleans Seminary, will help launch the Inauguration Week when she speaks at chapel services on April 22 at 10 a.m. Kelley is the wife of New Orleans Seminary President Chuck Kelley.

The BMC Chorale will present an Inaugural Concert in Berry Auditorium at 6 p.m. on April 25. Following Friday morning's inauguration, there will be a reception for McMillin on Hearn Plaza and an open house at the president's home.

Prior to coming to BMC,

McMillin was associate provost and dean of instruction at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., where she was a member of the faculty for 20 years.

McMillin is an alumna of Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville, Union University, and the University of Mississippi in Oxford. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Union, McMillin earned both her M.A. and D.A. in English at Ole Miss. As a graduate student, she was a teaching assistant at Ole Miss and an English Instructor at BMC in the summers of 1985 and 1987.

McMillin was a member of Northeast Mississippi Community College's English faculty for five years before joining the Union faculty in the fall of 1992. She was named Union's Faculty Member of the Year in 1999.

McMillin and her husband Larry have a son, Sam, who is in the eighth grade at New Albany Middle School.

For complete information about Inauguration Week, visit [www.bmc.edu/inauguration](http://www.bmc.edu/inauguration).



**McMILLIN**

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APR 25 2013



# From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

## Late again

As these very words are being written, another subscriber is notifying The Baptist Record that his newspaper was delivered more than a week late. That's a common scenario at The Baptist Record these days, another indication that the United States Postal Service has once again failed to do their job. Lately, that's happening to entire churches.

The Baptist Record is produced and printed each week on a strict deadline schedule that allows the newspaper to be turned over to the Postal Service for delivery in a timely manner. In many areas of the state — particularly north Mississippi — that's not happening.

The staff of The Baptist Record and I first want to apologize for the late deliveries. Secondly, we want to make clear that our words here are not meant to be a blanket criticism of all the good people who work hard at the Postal Service to get the majority of our mail to us in a timely manner. The reality is that most copies of The Baptist Record are delivered on time, but not nearly to the level it should be.

Our goal here is to explain the process we go through each week that should guarantee timely delivery of the newspaper. Our frustration is that it often does not.

When the staff of The Baptist Record completes production each week — after the news articles are completed and the advertisements are in place and the pages are designed and all of it has been proofed — the newspaper is sent to Cain Lithographers in Jackson, the Record's contract printer for three generations.

Cain Lithographers' production specialists take the final technical steps to prepare the newspaper for actual printing on the company's high-speed Color King offset press. (It takes quite a while to print more than 80,000 copies of the Record.) When the production specialists have finished their job, the printers begin their job.

As copies of The Baptist Record are spinning off the press, Cain's mail system employees are affixing an individual, computer-

generated label to each copy. The computer's software has already automatically sorted the subscribers across the state, in many cases right down to the street-level mailboxes as the Postal Service delivery person sees them on his daily route.

The precisely-sorted copies are bundled and sacked according to Postal Service requirements and trucked to the massive Postal Service sorting facility in downtown Jackson. Somewhere beyond that point is where the delivery problems begin.

Doug Kyle, who acts as the Record's liaison in the Business Service Network of the Jackson sorting center, said, "The Postal Service has been working on addressing a number of Baptist Record delivery problems reported in the 388 and 389 ZIP Code areas of North Mississippi. As a result of our investigation, labeling and transportation changes were made that we believed would resolve each issue. Subsequent reports from our Post Offices in those areas through Monday, April 15, indicate those changes have been successful. We still have some isolated locations, fewer than 10 reporting Post Offices in these areas, on which we need to further focus, and we will continue to work toward identifying and correcting those delays."

"We apologize to you and your subscribers for the inconvenience you have experienced in not receiving timely delivery of the Baptist Record. We ask that if any problems recur, please notify the Postmaster in the local Post Office. The Postal Service wants its customers to receive quality service, and our local Postmasters have been diligently watching and providing us with the information that made the latest service corrections possible."

Please take Mr. Kyle's advice and contact your local postmaster whenever The Baptist Record is not delivered in a timely manner. Also, please contact The Baptist Record at [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org), so we can work on the problem from this end. Let's work together to make The Baptist Record the best it can be.

## Law enforcement officers and our Christian witness

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. (Romans 13:1-4)

Law enforcement officers are declared as servants of God by the Apostle Paul in these verses and by the Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 2:13-14. They are the front line warriors when spiritual warfare manifests itself physically. Yet by most, they are overlooked.

I understand the inattention. There are no really cool commercials during sporting events recruiting young men and women to law enforcement like there are to the military. There are no parades for law enforcement officers, and no holidays that recognize their service or the fallen officers who gave their lives for us. There are no fly-overs at ball games, saluting the very officers protecting the stadium.

Please don't misunderstand my opinion. I am writing this in English, because of brave men and women in our military. When a soldier is in combat, he or she has a conscious thought every day that they may die. Fortunately, these deployments last for a limited time (though are often repeated). I have many friends who have endured the pains of war and I sympathize with them while saluting their sacrifice. They are true heroes.

However, police officers, deputy sheriffs, highway patrolmen, narcotics agents, and other law enforcement of-



### Guest opinion

with Tim Rutledge

ficers are in your town every day risking their lives for a 30-year career. Every day that they don the vest, or check their weapon to ensure it is loaded, they have a conscious thought, "I might die today."

On the average shift, they have an adrenalin dump five to 15 times. These life or death moments have their toll on the physical, emotional, spiritual, social, career, and family lives of each and every officer. Their life expectancy is 59 years. There is a high suicide and divorce rate, and officers become cynical with an air of general mistrust toward everyone.

While you are reading this, an officer is protecting you from being a victim of a crime.

Officers are very low paid. Some officers are out there risking their lives in Mississippi for nine dollars per hour. Some qualify for food stamps and other benefits because of their extreme low pay. They see the worst in life, constantly and daily, with very little outreach from churches.

Many churches do reach out to our officers! In May of last year, I attended a law enforcement appreciation service where many non-member officers attended. The church provided lunch for the officers, who felt this church's genuine appreciation. The Mississippi Baptist Convention recently trained officers and chaplains to help with the emotional and spiritual needs of officers following high stress events.

Everyone appreciates being appreciated, but officers rarely hear gratitude

see RUTLEDGE on p. 6

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# Pastor-to-be recalls birth of Cooperative Program

*Editor's note: This past Sunday was Cooperative Program Sunday in the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), highlighting the SBC's remarkable channel of support for state, national, and international missions and ministries. This article is published in celebration of the 88 years of Kingdom work funded by gifts to the Cooperative Program.*

**MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP and local reports)** — M.O. Owens Jr. was still in knickers on May 13, 1925, the day his parents took him to a pivotal session of the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting. That was the day the Cooperative Program (CP) was born.

Now 99 years old, Owens recalls the vote that ushered in the CP as a system of financial support for the missions and ministries of Southern Baptists within state conventions and throughout the nation and world.

"I was there but I was only 11. I don't have a keen memory of specifics. There wasn't any great opposition, but it was a new idea to the pastors.

"I remember very vividly how excited my dad was, how delighted he was, and I do remember so well he was concerned about enlisting the other pastors. He was the only pastor from that association [Orangeburg County, S.C.] who attended that convention," Owens said of his father, the late Milum Oswell Owens Sr., who pastored two churches in South Carolina.

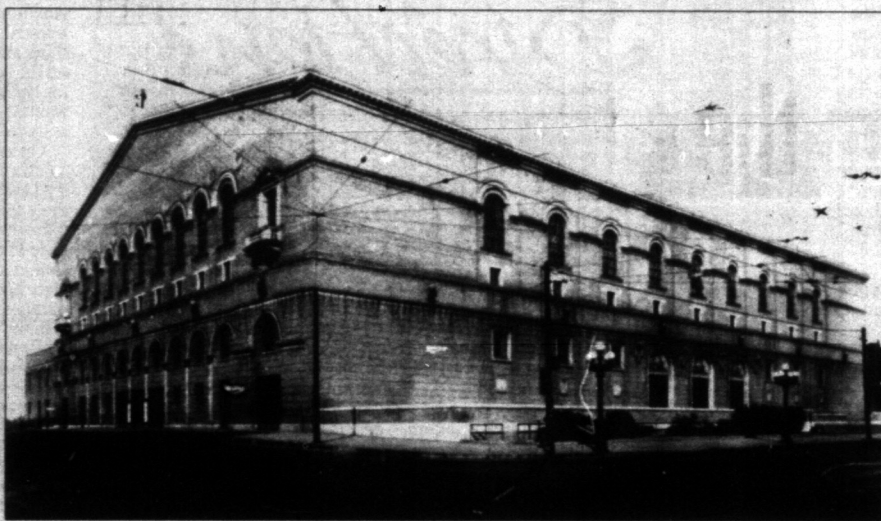
His parents must have realized the historical significance of the vote, because the younger Owens was allowed to stay with relatives during the other sessions of the five-day event, which took place in a brand-new convention hall in Memphis.

It was hot that day, Owens recalled. Other reports say air was "oppressively muggy" in the convention center, with about 5,600 people in their Sunday best. Owens recalls his father wore a suit and his mother wore her best dress — plus hat and gloves.

The SBC had space enough, with an 11,000-seating capacity in what was then known as the Memphis and Shelby County Auditorium and Market House, opened in 1924 at the corner of Poplar and Front Streets. It was later named Ellis Auditorium to honor a former president of the local Chamber of Commerce, and was torn down in 1999 to make way for an expansion of Cook Convention Center next door.

For "air-conditioning," the auditorium had just seven large fans to cool the entire auditorium along with ceiling vents to allow some of the rising heat to escape, said Eric Elam, director of operations for the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce.

Owens' father apparently had planned for months to attend the



**MOMENTOUS DAY** — The new Memphis and Shelby County Auditorium and Market House was the site of the 1925 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, where on May 13 a radical new funding concept called the Cooperative Program was proposed and approved. A total of 5,600 messengers were in attendance. (BP photo)



**M.O. OWENS JR.**

SBC annual meeting, because he had purchased a brand-new 1925 black Plymouth that spring, replacing his 1916 black Ford Model T.

"Before that day [of the CP vote] there were very few Sundays there wouldn't be someone appealing for an offering," Owens said. "I remember my parents talking about it, Dad saying we needed to figure out a way to lump some of these appeals together — foreign missions, home missions, Indian missions, orphanages and more, and then he heard about [what is known today as the Cooperative Program] and he was tickled pink when it happened."

Owens Sr. wasn't alone in his pleasure that the Cooperative Program was approved. An article by Todd Starnes written in 2000 for SBC LIFE noted that "the messengers heartily approved the report [by what was known as the Future Program Commission] with the following recommen-

dation: That from the adoption of this report by the Convention our co-operative work be known as 'The Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists.'"

"It was all brand-new to the local pastors, and my dad's job, he felt, was to tell them about it, the reason for it and... he was, I think, fairly successful," Owens said of his father, then pastor of Ebenezer Church in Cordova, S.C., and Two Mile Swamp Church, some eight miles down a dirt road.

"The two churches together, as I remember, said they would pay him \$2,000 a year, but it wasn't guaranteed."

The younger Owens also became a pastor, serving churches in South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia before starting Parkwood Church in Gastonia, N.C., as a mission in 1963. Beyond his retirement in 1980, Owens has continued to serve Parkwood Church as pastor emeritus, preaching there weekly in a ministry now spanning 50-plus years.



"The agencies and institutions were not happy with the new plan at first, but in only a few years they realized how fortunate they were in the benefits of the plan. They no longer had to go begging, and their financial benefits began to increase. ...It was only a few years until it was recognized by the churches as a divinely-oriented concept."

**M.O. Owens Jr.**

"Money was scarce [in 1925], actually," Owens said. "There had been a period right after World War I when there was a sort of a boom and money was sort of plentiful, but then came a recession and that was right at the time the trip was made to Memphis."

The Owens family drove over dirt-packed roads to get from South Carolina to Memphis, staying with relatives when possible to save money. "It took us four days, because the front wheels of the Plymouth were not aligned properly," Owens recalled. "Somewhere between Birmingham and Memphis the tires were worn out and Dad had to buy new ones."

Nothing was going to keep them from that important vote, however, so Owens' father dug into his wallet and paid for two tires and an alignment — about \$100, the equivalent of nearly \$1,000 today. In not having to pay for lodging in Memphis, it was possible for the family to drive 700-plus miles from South

Carolina, through Atlanta and Birmingham, to go to the meeting and to pay for the tires and alignment, Owens said.

"The agencies and institutions were not happy with the new plan at first, but in only a few years they realized how fortunate they were in the benefits of the plan," Owens said. "They no longer had to go begging, and their financial benefits began to increase. ...It was only a few years until it was recognized by the churches as a divinely-oriented concept."

Owens said he has watched for years the strength of the CP his father was so pleased to help pass. "It is a beautiful arrangement. The churches are not plagued by appeals for money. Each church can choose to participate — or not. Each agency and institution can feel fairly secure in anticipating its designated share."

The CP has enabled the SBC to develop a well-organized worldwide missions thrust that reaches into more than 160 nations, with missionaries trained by six of the "largest and most effective seminaries in the world," Owens said.

"Each state has had the privilege of using its share of CP funds for colleges, children's homes, hospitals, homes for the aging, or whatever its apparent needs might be."

The CP method of pooling mission dollars for maximum effectiveness "is not perfect, but its advantages are great," Owens said. "There are biblical reasons why it is good, and there are compelling logistical reasons why it works so well."

"Through the Cooperative Program, we Southern Baptists are supporting thousands of missionaries here in America and all around the world, and these missionaries are specially trained to plant the Gospel in whatever area they are working," Owens said.

"In 2011 ...they planted more churches and baptized more people than all the 45,000-plus Southern Baptist churches here in the USA."

Owens received the 2011 Heritage Award from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and the North Carolina Baptist Foundation for his exemplary service, philanthropy, and leadership in missions and ministries within the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina over the years.

At Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., an academic post was named in his honor last year: the Dr. M.O. Owens Jr. Chair of New Testament Studies.

In the years after the vote to establish the CP, Owens Sr. went on to pastor First Church of Taylors, S.C., where he was followed some decades later by Frank Page, current president of the SBC Executive Committee, former two-term SBC president, and presently the interim pastor of First Church, Jackson.



There are not many times in Mississippi that we get to cheer about being number one in a good thing. We usually are at the top of the list for what we should not be and on the bottom of the list of what we need to be on the top. Now for those of us who live here in Mississippi, know us best, and count it home, we understand that so many of the things that the rest of the world perceives about us are not true. I have always been blessed as people come to our state and after they have visited with some of our people, seen the beauty of our landscape, and did not see so many of the things that they have been told about us they were shocked, impressed, and even complimentary of what they found in the wonderful folks in Mississippi.

Recently, we were told that Mississippi and particularly our capital city, Jackson, is the pollen capital of the nation. Our trees, our plants, our bushes, and our grasses all join together to produce more pollen than anywhere else in America. Now for those of you who have been hacking and coughing for the last days, weeks, and maybe even months you already knew that we had to be a leader in pollen production.

The other day I was driving down what used to be a black asphalt road, and all of a sudden it had turned green. It was green not for Saint Patrick's Day, but it had turned lime green because of all of the pollen and especially because of the pine trees sharing their incredible pollination with the rest of us. Now while we may complain about our extreme pollination, it is actually a good thing because it is a part of the reproductive process of all of our plants and crops. So when you think about it, if you like fruits and vegetables, nuts and cotton fabrics, and wood building materials, you should probably slow down enough to say thank you to all of the growing plants around you producing their pollen for next year and the next generations. While the pollen is everywhere around us and even as you read this it may be on your clothes and in your nose, let me point out it does not hang around all year long. As you consider this season of life, it is also a good reminder of some significant and hopefully some helpful things.

**The first thing that I would like**

## SBC opens meeting registration

**JACKSON, Ms. (Special)** — The 2013 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) will be held June 11-12, at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas. Most Mississippi Baptist churches are using the online registration process at [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net), to pre-register messengers for the Convention. For those churches not using the online process, registration cards may be obtained by contacting Brenda Box, Executive Administration, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at (601) 292-3201, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. E-mail: [bbox@mbcb.org](mailto:bbox@mbcb.org).

SBC messenger cards are required in order to participate in the business sessions of the annual meeting, and are mailed only by church request. For more information, contact Box at the above phone numbers or email.



## Congratulations... We are Number One!

to point out is that often things that annoy us affect others for good. The inconvenience of pollination is literally the process and the substance for future good. I remember when the lady brought the alabaster box of precious ointment and poured it on the head of Jesus that the disciples were all filled with indignation. They were angry, flustered, and annoyed by it all. Jesus pointed out that for centuries and millennia every time the story of His crucifixion was told somebody would be talking about this lady who did the most wonderful thing in preparing His body for burial. Oftentimes, the annoying things are affecting lives for years to come.

Have you ever experienced a growth spurt in your church and a group of young people came in that maybe did not have all of the church niceties in their backgrounds? Or maybe some new people walked in and away from the clutches of sin in this world and they did not know all that we know. It is upsetting to some folks, but it is a wonderful thing because it changes eternity for all of these other folks.

**The second thing that I would point out is in a similar vein. What bothers us also blesses us.** It seems to be that in so many areas of life God has put that principle into effect. For instance, if you live a rather sedentary lifestyle and get

little or no exercise for years, when you do decide that you want to get in shape, lose a few pounds, and feel better and you launch into an elementary exercise program you may find out the next day that you have used muscles and stretched places that you had forgotten you had. You may even be so stiff or as the old folks say, stove-up, that you can hardly get around. The fact is that if you will keep moving forward, what is bothering you will bless you.

The same thing is true mentally as you face some new thought process. You may remember learning your multiplication tables and oh what a struggle that was for so many. Will you ever be able to master 2 X 2 and 6 X 9? As you work through the entire table, keep on pressing forward, and watching your friends struggle through it, you grasp it. It becomes a part of the fabric of your life almost every day that blesses you without you even thinking about it. What bothers you blesses you.

**The third thing that I would point out is that as you take another deep breath of pollen, that what we grumble about may actually be God at work around us.** I can tell you for a fact that is true with pollen. I can also tell you from personal experience and from biblical understanding that oftentimes what God's people are mumbling and grumbling

about is His hand working around them and in them. In Jewish history, one of the greatest events that they ever experienced was the deliverance from Egypt. But when you think about that event, it is absolutely miraculous that it ever happened. Just think about God calling a man who was up on the backside of the desert. Moses locked his heels and argued with God. He did not want to do what the Lord had called and assigned him to do.

Once Moses got to Egypt he was confronted with the difficulty of convincing God's people that he was being sent there to lead them out. And even more difficult was the task that he was given to go to Pharaoh and convince him that he should let the people go. Ten plagues took place across Egypt as the children of Israel watched. Finally, Pharaoh says, "Get out of here!" They begin to move away from Egypt toward the Promised Land, but oh my goodness there was the Red Sea. Now for sure they were about to die out there on the edge of the water as the thundering armies of Pharaoh were coming upon them. They turned to Moses and grumbled. Moses turned to God and wondered — what now? God said to Moses, "Watch and see the salvation of the Lord." God was doing a marvelous thing that they would talk about for millennia.

Understanding that I have also watched as God was trying to work in a church or in an individual's life, and the very things that were taking place, things they grumbled and complained about actually had the markings of the hand of God at work. I know that you may not appreciate the pollen. I know that there are things that you may want to grumble about and things that annoy and bother you, but God Himself wants to take and use these things to bless you and a future generation. It may be a new program in your church. It could be a new song that was sung. It could be a new servant that has come to be your pastor or staff member. Do not miss out on seeing God at work doing things that you are not watching for because you are so perturbed by the pollen in your life.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

## College News



James M. Turner (center), dean of the WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY College of Osteopathic Medicine (WCUCOM), was the recipient of the Alton B. Cobb Outstanding Master of Public Health Award at the annual College of Health Awards Night at The University of Southern Mississippi. Michael Forster (left), dean of the College of Health at USM, and Ray Newman, chair of the Department of Community Health Sciences at USM, presented the award.

Senior Edward Moak, Brookhaven, was elected the MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE Student Government Association president. He is a graduate of Brookhaven Academy and is a graphics design major.





What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 18, 2013

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

*Pastor* **MINISTER OF EDUCATION SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR**

**Conference**

WORKING TOGETHER...  
GROWING STRONG  
CHURCHES

May 20, FBC, New Albany  
May 21, FBC, Columbia  
6 p.m. Dinner  
7-9 p.m. Conference

For more information  
contact Carolyn Day  
1-800-748-1651, ext. 291  
or 601-292-3291  
cday@mbcb.org

**2013**  
*Legacy*  
**Revival**

**MONDAY, APRIL 29**  
Hardy Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg  
Two services: 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Glenn Shows, gshows@mbcb.org  
Daniel Hall, dhall@mbcb.org  
Ken Hopkins, khopkins@hardysbc.net  
(601-544-1794)

**2013 STATE**  
*Senior*  
**ADULT RALLY**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2013**  
RIDGECREST BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON  
(601-853-1090, EXT. 35)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE DISCIPLESHIP DEPARTMENT OF  
THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD AT 601-292-3284

**COLOSSAL COASTER WORLD**

**VBS Church Leadership Training**

**6:30 - 9 p.m.**  
**CONFERENCES**

- Preschool and Children
- Pastors and General Officers
- Children's Rotation: Missions, Music, Crafts, Snacks, Decorations
- Club VBS: Jungle Jaunt
- VBS planning help.

**APRIL 22, 2013**  
First Baptist Church  
McComb, Miss.

**APRIL 23, 2013**  
Crosspoint  
Hattiesburg, Miss.

For more information contact Angie Boydstun at [aboydstun@mbcb.org](mailto:aboydstun@mbcb.org) or  
Jo Wasson at [jwasson@mbcb.org](mailto:jwasson@mbcb.org)  
or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or 601-292-3292  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205

**Preregister today  
and get a free VBS Inflatable!**

**MISSISSIPPI BSU**  
[www.mbcbsu.org](http://www.mbcbsu.org)

**ADOPT A SUMMER MISSIONARY**

This year, Mississippi BSU will send over 150 students around the world as summer missionaries. To adopt one of these students, please follow this link to fill out the "Adopt A Summer Missionary" form.  
[www.mbcbsu.org/adopt](http://www.mbcbsu.org/adopt)

For more information contact:  
Peggy Powell at 601-292-3299  
or [ppowell@mbcb.org](mailto:ppowell@mbcb.org)

## MISSISSIPPI KIDS CAMP 2013



"Surely God is my salvation...with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation."  
(Isaiah 12:2a-3)

Camp I - June 24-26, 2013

Camp II - June 27-29, 2013

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

Kosciusko, Miss.

Cost \$150

Camp fee includes: Lodging, meals, activities, and T-shirt

For Kids who have completed grades 2-6

Registration begins at 10 a.m. on the first day of camp.

Camp concludes with lunch on the last day of camp.

Registration begins February 1, 2013

For registration information contact the MBCB Sunday School Department at 601-292-3292 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292.

### Highlights:

- Worship
- Church Bible Study
- Adventure Ropes Course
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Malachi 3:10-12

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Pray this day for...

April 19 - May 9, 2013

*"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:1-2*

Pray for: **Laurie\* Bledsoe**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Donald\* and Teresa\* Bolis**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach evangelism and agriculture missions.

Pray for: **Matthew\* and Megan\* Brewer**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Hungary through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks\***, IMB missionary ministering to American Peoples in Chile through church planting.

Pray for: **John and Claudia\* Brown**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Malawi through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Arnold\* and Margie\* Austin**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Peru through community, church and home outreach and encounter evangelism.

Pray for: **Richard and Martha\* Beal**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach and serving through financial administration.

Pray for a team of two from the **Tri-County Association** traveling to South East Asia for IMB Training, 4/26-5/10.

Pray for: **Donald\* and Donna\* Brown**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Romania through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **David and Pamela\* Carlton**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in South Africa through theological education, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Richard\* and Wanda Clark**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Romania through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Guy\* and Cindy\* DeMars**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Senegal through church and home outreach and evangelism and hospital coordination.

Pray for: **Thomas\* and Kerri Dewett**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the Dominican Republic through evangelism, church and home outreach.

Pray for: **Alvin and Mary\* Doyle**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Hungary through member care.

Pray for: **David and Tiffany Epps**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert\* and Margaret Fortenberry**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Botswana through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **David\* and Gloria\* Glaze**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples in the U.S. through media consultation and promotion.

Pray for: **John\* and Sonia\* Grady**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the U.S. through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Clarence Frank and Phoebe\* Harrison**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Honduras through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Brian\* and Felicia\* Henderson**, missionaries to American Peoples in Peru through regional office support and church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Earl\* and Ramona Hewitt**, missionaries to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the U.S. through medicine and church/home outreach evangelism.

\*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms in career service.

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**May 21**

**Preacher:**

**Jim Futral, MBCB**

**FBC, Vicksburg**

**May 23**

**Preacher:**

**Argile Smith, Pineview, La.**

**FBC, Picayune**

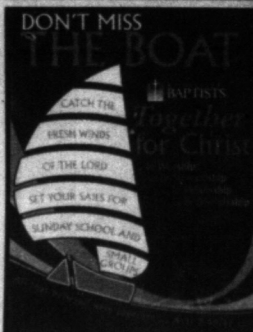
**May 30**

**Preacher:**

**Clarence Cooper, Brandon BC**

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# HOUSE TOPS



## 5

## TORNADO

cont. from p.1

Didlake continued by saying volunteers had begun arriving the morning of April 13. "There was damage on about 28 houses," Didlake said. "Some were just missing shingles, but others were damaged badly."

Chainsaw teams from Calhoun Association and Yalobusha Association were working near Shuqalak where the most extensive damage occurred. A team was to arrive from Fairview Church, Columbus, to place tarps on homes. Jason Moore, a member of Rocky Point Church in Carthage, was part of a team from Leake Coun-

"We're trying to get interest even stronger ... If we could get it county wide, then there wouldn't be so much work for one church. Some of our little churches want to be involved."

Mark Sullivan

West Carthage Church volunteer

ty. He was with Pastor Shane McGivney, Mark Sullivan, and Chris Stevens from West Car-

thage Church, Carthage. The group had been on site since early that morning.

"We're just now getting started in disaster relief," said Moore. "We had a big training at our church to get a Leake County group going, and had around fifty people come to training. There seems to be a lot of interest in it. Our Brotherhood Director, Brother Shane, and I are trying to lead out in this."

"We're trying to get interest even stronger," said Sullivan. "We'd like to get a trailer and get people ready to help other folks. If we could get it county wide, then there wouldn't be so much work for one church. Some of our little churches want to be involved."

## RUTLEDGE

cont. from p.2

from churches. Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in May 15, May 12-18 is National Police Week. It would be an excellent time for your church to say "thank you" to your officers. It would be an opportunity to introduce Christ to a group who are rarely ministered to. It would give the officer an uncommon oppor-

tunity to see good people who love the Lord sharing His love to others.

Pray for your officers. Thank God that He provides you protection through them.

Rutledge, a career law enforcement officer, is currently director of training at the Regional Counterdrug Training Academy in Meridian. He is a member of Broadmoor Church, Madison.

## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Oak Grove Church, Smith Association:** Revival, Apr. 21 - 24; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Stan Buckley, speaker; Monty Bounds, music; John Barnes, pastor.

► **Neshoba Church, Union:** Revival, Apr. 21 - 25; Sun., music, 10:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; music, 6:45 nightly, followed by worship, 7 p.m.; Leroy Haskins, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music.

► **Ramah Church, McCall Creek:** Homecoming, Apr. 21, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; Pat Lofton, speaker; Lonnie Case, pastor.

► **Brandon Church, Brandon:** 10th anniversary, Apr. 21; morning worship followed by dinner on the grounds and anniversary service, 2 p.m.

► **Slayden Church, Marshall Association:** Revival, Apr. 21 - 24; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Dale Walker, speaker; Joel Strahan, music; Rusty Fair, pastor.

► **Ephesus Church, Scott Association:** Revival, Apr. 21 - 24; meal following Sunday morning service and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Reggie Williams, preaching; Buddy McElroy, singing.

► **Concord Church, Pelahatchie:** Homecoming, Apr. 21; services, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and afternoon service; previous pastors, music leaders, and musicians taking part in services.

## BIBLIOPHET

EPECW, JW TVDOCEVTH, EOT PWWM;

EOT ARPB, EBB JW TVSOCWVH RN

PSOW, GWIEDHW RN XAW OWP PSOW;

NRV SX SH IDX RNN NVRU JRDV

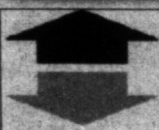
URDXA.

QRWB ROW: NSZW

Q = J

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs 30:5

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## Be Strong in God's Work • 2 Timothy 1:1-10, 14-15, 22-26

This week's passage includes ten commandments; not The Ten Commandments, just ten commands. Paul used ten strong imperative verbs to instruct Timothy how he should live and serve the Lord. We also can learn from these commands how to be strong in the Lord. All ten verbs are second singular, which means they were written to one person, Timothy. All ten verbs are imperative, or commands. In English we indicate a command by the verb's place in the sentence. For example, "Read this article now!" In New Testament Greek, the form of the verb revealed it was a command and gave more details.

Timothy was told to **BESTRENGTHENED** in 2 Timothy 2:1 (all texts New King James). This verb in the Greek is passive and aorist. The passive meant that Timothy could not strengthen himself, but must have allowed the Lord to strengthen him. The aorist indicated action completed. When mixed with the imperative, it means that this is not to be ongoing, but emphatically should be completed when the need occurs. So Paul was telling Timothy that when he felt weak or uncertain, he must receive his strength from the Lord Jesus.

In verse 2, Timothy was instructed to **COMMIT** to faithful men what he had heard from the Apostle Paul. This too is aorist imperative, which means this should immediately be done. This

verb means to give over, or to entrust faithful men with the gospel. Song writer Kurt Kaiser captured the heart of this command in his 1969 song, *Pass It On*.

Paul then insisted in verse 3 that Timothy **ENDURE** hardship, using the illustration of a good soldier of Jesus Christ. The aorist tense mixed with the imperative again meant that when suffering hardship, Timothy must have behaved as would a soldier. In verse 4, Paul emphasized a soldier's selfless commitment. He mentioned an athlete and a farmer as further examples. The athlete worked hard and followed the rules, while the farmer labored before he enjoyed the results. All three examples demonstrated discipline, and required focus on the outcome, whether obeying the commander, winning the prize, or gaining a crop.

Paul urged Timothy to **CONSIDER** his words in verse 7. This imperative verb is in present tense, which denotes the command to constantly be considering. It is translated elsewhere perceive. Paul expounded this command

in Ephesians 1:17-18, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints." Paul concluded verse 7 with a request that the

Lord give Timothy godly understanding in all things.

In verse 8, Paul told Timothy to **REMEMBER**, and then

he preached what to remember in verses 8-13. Timothy was to remember the core of gospel, that Jesus rose from the dead. This verb is a present imperative, which meant Timothy was instructed to always have been remembering the heart of the evangelistic experience and message. This verb is also translated in the New Testament keep in mind and keep thinking about this.

The sixth command in verse 14 was to **REMIN**D. This could have meant to remind his congregation, but probably meant remind those to whom the gos-

pel was committed in verse two. This imperative verb demanded ongoing reminding of the gospel message and meaning.

Paul told Timothy in verse 15 to **BE DILIGENT**. While the English is written with two words, the Greek is one word, and the verb is aorist imperative. So Timothy was instructed to have been ever eager to be approved, not ashamed, and accurately handling God's word. By the way, Moody Bible Institute's AWANA children's ministries is named from this verse: *Approved Workers Are Not Ashamed*.

The next two commands in verse 22, **FLEE** and **PUR**SUE, described what should not have been in Timothy's life and what should. These are present imperatives, demanding constant fleeing and pursuing. These are also translated escape, and seek after respectively.

The final command, **A**VOID in verse 23, told Timothy not to have focused his attention and energy in foolish disputes. Also translated decline and refuse, this present imperative meant keep declining that which would have distracted from obeying God's word.

As Timothy was instructed in the verses, God's word commands us today in them. May we be approved as was Timothy.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.



## Explore the Bible

with Rick Henson

## Living in Holiness • Leviticus 18:1-5, 20-26; 20:6-8

Clicking off the miles on a recent trip, I passed a church sign with this message: "WHY FIT IN WHEN YOU CAN STAND OUT?" As we delve into the third lesson in the "Holy God, Holy People" series, this is indeed a good question, a concept meriting consideration as worldly, ungodly values bombard us regularly.

God had brought His people out of the realm of physical bondage, and He desired their freedom from spiritual enslavement as well. This week's focal passages contain select actions the Israelites were to avoid, that they might maintain a holy lifestyle. In our day and time, we face many of these same temptations, as well.

The Lord called the Israelites to be a separate people, dedicated to obeying His commands and ordinances. They were to put away the corrupting influences of their years in Egypt and resolve to shun the sinful practices of the Canaanite culture they would encounter. What "Canaanite culture" do you face? Television, the Internet, co-workers, family and friends often entice us with thoughts such as "just this once won't hurt", "loosen up", or "live a little".

"Believers are tempted to compromise spiritually and morally to fit in," says Charles Stanley in his *Life Principles* Notes. "If we aren't careful, the world's standards become our own," he warns. God firmly instructed the Israelites concerning this danger: "Do

not follow their practices. You must obey my laws and be careful to follow my decrees" (Lev. 18:18-3-4 NIV). The standards set in the Old Testament carry over into the New Testament: "As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, be holy in all you do" (1 Peter 1:14-15 NIV).

Leviticus 18:6-26 points out sexual sins God's people were to reject: adul-

ttery, fornication, homosexuality, and bestiality. Contemplating the instructions these verses contain reminds us to embrace God's clear plan for human sexuality revealed in His word instead of accepting the loose morals proffered by our sexually-charged culture.

The Israelites were also commanded to reject the pagan ritual of human sacrifice (vs. 21). John Wesley's *Explanatory Notes* explains the hideous idolatrous practice of sacrificing one's descendants to Molech (Lev. 20:2): "This was done, either by burning them in the fire, or making them pass through two great fires, which was a kind of consecration to that god." Ref-

erencing Leviticus 18:21 and 20:2-5, [www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com) offers this slant: "Parallel to these prohibitions, although the name of the god is not mentioned, are those of the Deuteronomistic Code where the abominations of the Canaanites are forbidden, and the burning of their sons and daughters in the fire (to Molech) is condemned as the climax to their wickedness...." (See Deuteronomy 12:31.) Although we don't have any "Molech" altars today,

many still "sacrifice" their children to get what they want (consider the effects of abortion, lust for excessive material

possessions, passing-the-buck parenting, and such).

Another practice God forbade was consulting mediums or spiritists. He declared the one who did such prostituted himself, and would be cut off from his people (Lev. 20:6). Newspaper horoscopes, palm readers, movies and such take advantage of society's fascination with the future. Christ-followers realize God determines our days and times, not such sources (see Proverbs 19:21 and 20:24). As Christians, we need to be quite careful

where we seek guidance when making plans.

Our focal passages close out as God again calls for His chosen ones to consecrate themselves to holiness and to follow His commands (Lev. 20:7-8). We can escape "the corruption that is in the world" as we cling tightly to the "very great and precious promises" of God's holy and eternal word (2 Peter 1:4 HCSB).

But what about relating to those we are trying to reach? In seeking to be holy (which, along with being righteous, also means being set apart for God's service), do we alienate the lost? Actually, the reverse happens, according to Ed Stetzer, President of LifeWay Research ([www.edstetzer.com](http://www.edstetzer.com)): "In the desire to engage culture, several mainline Protestant denominations aligned with culture's values and in a great historic twist of irony, their churches didn't stop shrinking. They shrunk faster."

"Those espousing conservative beliefs considered antiquated by mainstream culture, are often the ones experiencing growth," he adds. When we discard godly values in order to fit in, Stetzer's research showed it "softens your impact on a society that needs you for what you believed and acted upon in the first place."

Maniscalco is a member of LeMoyné Boulevard Church, Biloxi.



## Bible Studies for Life

with Ann Maniscalco



## Just for the Record



Pastor of **PRENTISS CHURCH, PRENTISS**, Ben B. James, Jr., was presented a resolution commending his hard work and dedication in keeping the Capitol Prayer and Ministry Foundation, Inc., active. Lt. Governor Tate Reeves, a Foundation organizer, presented James with the resolution. The foundation meets during the legislative session and hosts free luncheons where supporters congregate and invited speakers share their testimony. Shown from left are Reeves, James, and Laura Lee James.

**EASTSIDE CHURCH, PEARL**, ordained Raymond Dyess as deacon Feb. 10. Shown are pastor Ron Harrison, Dyess, and Fredna Dyess.



### In other Church News:

- **Bethany Church, Prentiss**, will be hosting Mark Lanier in concert Apr. 21, 6 p.m. Love offering.
- **Sand Hill Church, Jones Association**, will have a reception honoring John C. Hilbun in recognition of 65 years in ministry Apr. 20, 2 - 4 p.m. On Apr. 21, the church will have "Dr. John C. Hilbun Day" with special recognition at 10:30 a.m., followed by a fellowship meal.
- **Macedonia Church, Petal**, will host a weekend event with Chris White Apr. 19 - 21, with a concert Apr. 20, 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (601) 545-3110.
- **New Hope Church, Foxworth**, will host Hunter C. May and Jason Runnels in concert Apr. 21, 6:30 p.m. Love offering.
- **Puckett Church, Puckett**, will host The Stamps Quartet Apr. 28, 6 p.m. Other guests include Michael Kevin Chambliss and Cassie Means. Love offering.
- **Lakeshore Church, Jackson**, is holding a churchwide garage sale for missions May 3, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. and May 4, 7 a.m. - noon.

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### Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are

not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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